

ORDERS PANEL TO EVALUATE GI STUDY COURSE

McNamara Move Hit by Sen. Thurmond

BY PHILIP DODD

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Jan. 9.—Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara today named a committee to advise him on the defense department's controversial troop information and education program. He met immediately with Congressional criticism.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (D., S. C.), a major general in the army reserve, issued a statement charging that "a study committee is, of course, standard bureaucratic response to publicized revelations of shortcomings."

Thurmond is a member of the Senate armed services subcommittee, headed by Sen. John Stennis (D., Miss.), which will open hearings Jan. 23 on charges that the defense department has muzzled military men it considers too zealous in warning of the dangers of communism.

Walker in Forefront

The Stennis group is expected to take up the case of Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, who resigned his commission after being relieved of command of the 24th division in Germany amid charges that his troop information program had included derogatory remarks about national leaders and attempts to influence soldiers' votes.

Thurmond said the "time for

positive action is already late" and charged that recommendations for troop indoctrination made just after the Korean war never have been implemented. "Instead," Thurmond said, "in the last year the troop indoctrination programs have been diluted by actions of the [defense] department which serve to deemphasize training troops about the enemy, which poses such a real and total threat to our country."

Asks Good Evaluation

McNamara's advisory committee, which will be headed by Karl E. Bendetsen, president of the Champion Paper company of Hamilton, O., and undersecretary of the army in the closing days of the Truman administration, was asked to consider these questions:

1. What are the appropriate objectives and goals of the program of nonmilitary instruction of members of the military services?
2. What are the appropriate subjects for such instruction?
3. What are the practical mechanics and criteria to be used in measuring the effectiveness of these programs?
4. What changes, if any, should be made in present assignments of responsibility for such training?

The committee is expected to come up with answers by July 1.

Among those serving with Bendetsen are Adm. Arleigh Burke (Ret.), former chief of naval operations, who had trouble early in the Kennedy administration trying to get some of his speeches cleared; Gen. Thomas D. White (ret.), former air force chief of staff, and Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, U. S. A. (ret.), former supreme commander of North Atlantic Treaty forces and now president of the American Red Cross.

Morris I. Leibman, senior

partner of the Chicago law firm of Crowell & Leibman, is another member of the committee. Others include Allen W. Dulles, former director of the central intelligence agency; Ralph E. McGill, editor of the Atlanta [Ga.] Constitution, and Thomas J. Watson, board chairman of the International Business Machines corporation.

Managed by Marine

In a directive issued Oct. 23, 1961, McNamara ordered that the troop information and education program include materials on "democracy and communism, forces for freedom [United States and friendly military forces], citizenship [including voting], orientation for

overseas duty, and the code of conduct."

The program is under the direction of a deputy assistant secretary of defense, Edward L. Katzenbach Jr., 43, a Princeton doctor of philosophy and former marine corps officer who was wounded in the fighting in the Pacific in World War II.